

Sully District: Lady Trudy Harsh and Lord Michael R. Frey

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commending the 2017 Lords and Ladies Fairfax and in expressing our gratitude to these men and women who have dedicated themselves to the betterment of our community. Their efforts provide immeasurable benefits to Fairfax County and its residents, and are truly worthy of our highest praise.

HONORING MASON THOMAS LEWIS

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 24, 2017

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Mason Thomas Lewis. Mason is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 214, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Mason has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Mason has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Mason has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Mason rebuilt and stained a bridge at Immacolata Manor in Liberty, Missouri.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Mason Thomas Lewis for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 24, 2017

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, had I been present for the vote yesterday on the passage of H.R. 3551, the C-TPAT Reauthorization Act of 2017 (Roll Call No. 569), I would have voted "aye." This legislation would reauthorize a program at U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) that encourages cargo importers, carriers, and other entities involved in international trade to cooperate with CBP to strengthen global supply chain security.

Had I been present for the vote on the passage of S. 504, the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Business Travel Cards Act of 2017 (Roll Call No. 570), I would have voted "aye." This bill would permanently authorize CBP's ability to issue travel cards that provide U.S. business leaders and government officials with short-term entry to APEC countries.

Had I been present for the vote on approving the Journal (Roll Call No. 571), I also would have voted "aye."

CELEBRATING THE THIRTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF REV. JONATHAN L. WEAVER AS PASTOR OF THE GREATER MT. NEBO AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 24, 2017

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Rev. Jonathan Leslie Weaver on his thirtieth pastoral anniversary with the Greater Mt. Nebo African Methodist Episcopal Church in Bowie, Maryland. Throughout the past three decades, Rev. Weaver has been ministering to a growing community of worshippers in Bowie and the greater Washington metro area. I've been honored to know him, to call him a friend, and to work closely with him to strengthen our communities in Maryland's Fifth District.

Since 1988, Rev. Weaver has overseen both the expansion of his church and a plethora of charitable endeavors through more than fifty ministries serving its members and the wider community. These have included programs to prevent domestic violence, to empower families through economic literacy, and to combat hunger. Under his guidance, Greater Mt. Nebo A.M.E. Church members have participated in Christmas in April, Tools for School, and other social service projects. Rev. Weaver has also carried his ministry across the ocean, visiting Rwanda, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Benin to engage in mission projects there for more than a quarter century.

As National President of the Collective Empowerment Group, Rev. Weaver has helped build a network of churches across seven states and the District of Columbia that host financial literacy seminars, educational programs, health care screenings, and homeownership clinics. The Collective Empowerment Group also partners with banks and local businesses to facilitate wider access to economic opportunities for those living in their communities. I have participated in a number of Collective Empowerment Group programs, and I can attest to the wonderful work the organization performs to help families reach for the American Dream.

Rev. Weaver holds degrees from Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri; St. Mary's Seminary in Baltimore, Maryland; and Harvard Business School in Cambridge, Massachusetts. When he arrived at Greater Mt. Nebo A.M.E., the church had 100 members; today, he has overseen its growth to more than 1,600 members. It is a testament to his vision, his inspiration, and his faith. Rev. Weaver also has overseen the construction of the community's present church building as well as its Christian Academy school and Family Life and Wellness Intergenerational Center assisted-living facility.

I hope all my colleagues will join me in congratulating Rev. Weaver and his wife, Pamela Lynn Weaver—who have two daughters and four grandchildren—on reaching this milestone. I thank them both for their work and spiritual guidance to so many in Maryland's Fifth District and for their friendship over the years.

HONORING LUCIANO VARELA

HON. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 24, 2017

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Luciano "Lucky" Varela, a hard-working New Mexican who fought for New Mexico families in the state Legislature. Luciano represented Santa Fe in the New Mexico House of Representatives from 1987 to 2016.

Rep. Varela was known for his expertise in government finance and his unwavering support for the employees who deliver services to New Mexicans. He always treated constituents with the utmost dignity and worked for New Mexico families.

Prior to serving in the New Mexico House of Representatives, he was the Director of the State Personnel Office, Chairman of the Board of the Public Employee's Retirement Association, and served on the House Appropriations Committee, in addition to the Legislative Finance Committee.

Rep. Varela was an advocate for fair wages and policies to support low-income families in New Mexico. In 1998, he sponsored legislation to expand the low-income comprehensive tax rebate.

Years later, in 2007, he sponsored a bill for public employee salary increases, which would increase the salaries of public employees including police officers, teachers, and higher education employees.

I will always remember Lucky as someone who was tough and transparent, but always fair. New Mexicans know that he worked hard to provide support for working families. He devoted his career to public service, for which, we are all grateful.

HONORING ZACHARY SCOTT LINARD

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 24, 2017

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Zachary Scott Linard. Zachary is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 495, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Zachary has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Zachary has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Zachary has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Zachary Scott Linard for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.